mentioned at (i) and (ii) above are to be delivered within 72 hours after the day of posting.

(iv) Letters within a State are to be delivered within 48-72 hourse after the day of posting.

(v) Letters within a District are to be delivered within 48 hours after the day of posting.

These broad norms are adhered to only when mail carrying trains, planes, buses and other transport run to their published schedule.

Remedial steps are taken where systemic delays are noticed and field officials are instructed to closely monitor transmission and delivery of mails.

Strcngth of Postal Staff in Delhi

1709. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that postal employees in Delhi were in a go-slow' undeclared strike recently; if so, what is the duration and main grievances of the employees;

(b) what is the present strength of postal employees for Delhi during each of last three years and the staff strength added each year; and

(c) whether Government have taken note of press reports to the effect that lakhs of letters and cards are not delivered in Delhi and are destroyed; and if so, the steps taken to prevent this practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The Railway Mail Service (RMS) staff of Delhi Circle resorted to refusal of overtime duty from October 17, 1995. The agitation was called off on November 3, 1995. The reasons for agitation by the RMS staff in Delhi was non-payment of overtime allowance because of non-availability of funds.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The Government has taken due note of the press reports in this connection. Special steps were taken to clear accumulated mail by streamlining the functioning of mail offices, strengthening sorting work in Post Offices, and by effective supervision and monitoring. There were no instances of destruction of mails.

Average Output of Sorting Assistants

1710. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the average output of Sorting Assistants in a span of duty of 8 hours including half an hour rest in each RMS Division in Maharashtra Circle, Delhi Circle, West Bengal Circle in any week in December, 1994 and May, 1994?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): The average output of sorting assistants in a span of duty of 8 hours including half-an-hour rest in a week of six working days is 47,700.

Set to Set Transfer in Postal Circles

1711. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Circular dated 27th February, 1991 bearing No. 39-S91-D was issued by the Department of Posts on the question set to set transfer; and

(b) if so, whether it was implemented by RMS Division in Maharashtra, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi Postal Circles; if so, what was the finding in each Circle?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All Postal Circles including